

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-23, 26 and 27 are pending. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 11, 14, 22 and 23 are amended, and claim 28 is canceled. In particular, the features of claim 28 have been placed into each of the independent claims. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

This Amendment should be entered after Final Rejection because it places this application in condition for allowance, or at least better condition for appeal, it does not raise any new issues or require additional searching in that it places the features of previous dependent claim 28 into each of the independent claims, and thus it also does not raise the issue of new matter. This Amendment could not have been made earlier because it is made in response to new rejections made in the November 1 Office Action.

Claims 1, 11, 12 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,967,675 (Ito et al.). In addition, claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ito et al. Furthermore, claims 2, 5-8, 13-16, 18, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ito et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,784,925 (Tomat et al.). These rejections are rendered moot by the above amendment to the independent claims.

Claim 28, the features of which have been placed into each of the independent claims of this application, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ito et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,013 (Ota et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that Ito et al. combined with Ota et al. does not suggest the combinations of features recited in amended independent claims 1, 11, 14, 22 and 23.

The Office Action acknowledged that Ito et al. does not disclose the feature, previously recited in claim 28, that the internal storage device is controlled to delete the basic image data from the internal storage device after a "receipt completed signal" has been received from the external storage device, but asserted that it would have been obvious to modify Ito et al. to have

such a feature in view of Ota et al. Applicant respectfully submits that Ota et al. does not disclose receipt of a "receipt completed signal" from an "external storage device" for causing the deletion of basic image data from an internal storage device. In particular, the processes referenced in the Office Action occur within one device, and thus do not relate to a "receipt completed signal" received from an external storage device. In particular, the "job end" signal that is sent from the FTR process 29 to the JOB process 25 does not come from the document image management server 30 (analogous to an external storage device). See col. 8, lines 5-8, col. 9, lines 4-14 and col. 11, lines 46-51. Rather, the FTR process 29 and the JOB process 25 are all part of the internal processes executed by the capture controller 20. See, for example, col. 5, lines 44-50. Accordingly, Ota et al. does not disclose or suggest that the capture controller 20 deletes basic image data from its internal memories 23 or 24 upon receipt of a "receipt completed signal" that has been received from the document image management server 30.

The deletion operations performed with respect to the image data in the internal memories 23 and 24 of the Ota et al. capture controller 20 occur based on signals generated within the capture controller 20, not based upon signals received from the external document image management server 30. In Ota et al., raw image data is stored in first memory 23. See col. 2, lines 37-39 and col. 5, lines 52-55. That raw image data subsequently is compressed and then stored as compressed data in a second memory 24 of the capture controller 20. See col. 2, lines 39-42 and col. 5, lines 55-59. The compressed data then is transmitted to the external document image management server 30. See col. 2, lines 42-44 and col. 6, lines 22-35. The capture controller 20 performs various processes 25-29 to control these functions. See, for example, col. 5, lines 44-50. In particular, the JOB process 25 controls the other processes 26-29. See, for example, col. 7, lines 16-21. When raw image data from first memory 23 has been compressed and stored into second memory 24, the TIF process 28 sends a

"page end" signal to the JOB process 25, and the JOB process 25 then deletes the raw video image data that has been compressed from the "job-ID" directory, thus deleting the raw image data from the first memory 23. See, for example, col. 7, lines 56-63 and col. 11, lines 3-9. This occurs before the image data is transferred to the external document image management server 30. Thus, Ota et al. does not disclose or suggest deleting the basic image data after the receipt of a "receipt completed signal" has been received from an external storage device.

Accordingly, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Ito et al. in view of the teachings of Ota et al. to result in the features previously recited in dependent claim 28, now recited in each of independent claims 1, 11, 14, 22 and 23. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance.

Claims 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ito et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,532,039 (Anderson). Claims 10, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ito et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,392 (Yamaguchi et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Neither Anderson nor Yamaguchi et al. overcomes the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Ito et al. and Ota et al. Accordingly, these claims also are patentable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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